

Abu Dhabi D 8.50, Albania 10.00, Andorra FF 10, Austria S 25, Bahrain 10.00, Belgium BF 90, Bulgaria 10.00, Canada C 1.00, Czech Republic KC 45, Denmark DK 15, Finland FM 11, France FF 10, Germany DM 3.50, Greece D 3.50, Hungary H 200, Iceland IS 100, India Ru 55, Israel NIS 9.50, Italy L 2.00, Japan Yen 120, Korea W 100, Kuwait KD 3.00, Latvia LV 2.00, Lithuania LT 2.00, Luxembourg L 40, Malta M 0.43, Mexico MX 20, Netherlands G 4.00, Norway Nkr 15, Oman OR 1.00, Pakistan P 70, Poland Z 2.50, Portugal E 200, Saudi Arabia R 10, Singapore S 1.50, Slovakia S 1.250, Spain P 200, Sweden SK 10, Switzerland SF 3, Taiwan T 100, Thailand TH 1.50, Turkey TL 100,000, Ukraine U 2.00, USA US\$ 2.75, Zimbabwe Z\$ 27.00

Matthew Engel on an institution under siege

Betrayal of the World Service

G2 with European weather

The pragmatism of New Labour

Eric Hobsbawm why intellectuals dislike Tony Blair

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OnLine

Preparing for the Internet

Labour accuses PM of climbdown □ Culling plan 'devastates' farmers

Major about-face on beef

John Palmer in Brussels, Steven Bullock in Strasbourg and Michael White

THE Government was last night struggling desperately to prevent its planned climb-down over terms for settling the EU beef war from turning into a humiliating rout at the Florence summit tomorrow. The National Farmers' Union said its members would be devastated by the Government's agreement to cull an extra 67,000 cattle, while the Opposition claimed John Major had merely been humiliated. In a statement issued last night the farmers' union said: "Today's proposal by the European Commission that further cattle must be culled as part of the UK's BSE eradication plan will come as devastating news to many farmers. The NFU believes it would be unacceptable for British farmers to be obliged to sacrifice their herds, especially in the absence of guaranteed progress towards a complete lifting of the ban." The shadow Foreign Secretary Robin Cook reacted to the attack on the Prime Minister: "This embarrassing climb-down for John Major has exposed how weak he is in Europe. Their strategy has not demonstrated strength by the Government's revealed their isolation. This is not a victory for John Major, but a humiliation." Liberal Democrat European affairs spokesman Charles Kennedy said: "We may have made no progress but done immense political damage to Britain and the rest of Europe in the process." The European Commission yesterday published a five-step framework agreement for gradually lifting the EU ban on British beef which falls well short of the Government's original demands for a clear-cut, staged lifting of the ban. Instead, each step taken in lifting the ban will depend on the Government taking a series of health and safety measures and other steps to get rid of BSE, as well as on verified evidence that the disease is being brought under control. Given these hurdles, some fear it could be three to five years before the final stages of the ban are removed, a suggestion dismissed by the Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind as "ludicrous." Ministers were also embarrassed by the Commission's public reference to the "considerable misgivings" of governments and scientific experts throughout the EU at the way the UK authorities had tackled the BSE crisis. The plans came with a new warning from Jacques Santer, the European Commission president, that Britain must drop its non-cooperation policy if the new framework was to be adopted in Florence tomorrow. He told the European Parliament: "It is for the UK authorities to take the necessary steps to eradicate BSE. This has been the consistent position of the Commission since the crisis began on March 21 and it will not budge. It will be deaf to political pressure and attempts to block union legislation, such as the veto. It would be a very



Table with 2 columns: Facing up to Europe, Faced down by Europe. It compares Major's demands (immediate lifting of the beef export ban, culling of 62,000 cattle, non-cooperation with EU, continued BSE eradication) with Europe's response (progressive step by step lifting of export ban, culling of 147,000 cattle, non-cooperation policy must be lifted before framework agreement signed, worldwide ban only to be lifted when EU ban totally lifted).

'We cannot continue business as usual within Europe when we are faced with this clear disregard by some of our partners of reason, common-sense and Britain's national interests.' - John Major in the Commons, May 21

'The Commission will be deaf to political pressure and attempts to block union legislation. It would be a very grave mistake to politicise this crisis. You cannot play with public health.' - Jacques Santer, European Commission president, yesterday



grave mistake to politicise this crisis. You cannot play with public health. The Prime Minister expressed cautious optimism over the Commission's proposals. "I don't know if we will be able to resolve this dispute at Florence, but we are now getting back to a more rational discussion and common sense suggests that rational discussion will draw us towards a practical solution," he said. The Commission plan makes it clear that Britain will not be free to sell its beef to countries outside the EU before the lifting of the ban is complete. Amid the confusion, the Government's chief veterinary officer, Keith Meldrum, appeared to concede that an extra 67,000 cattle born in 1989-90 could be killed to satisfy continuing European concerns that Britain has not done enough to eradicate BSE from its herds. The Government later admitted that such a cull would turn to page 2, column 8

British retreat, page 5 Leader comment, page 8

Reluctant warrior hails deal as a sort of victory

Michael White Political Editor

A LASTAIR Goodlad's team of Conservative whips will be busy with the small print of John Major's European beef deal this weekend, whispering soothing words of explanation to wavering Eurosceptics who might still be tempted to try to overthrow it. The Government's tactics were blatantly obvious when Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, appeared on Channel 4 News last night for the umpteenth time since the BSE crisis re-erupted in March and led to the EU's worldwide ban.

Testily sweeping aside claims by Robin Cook that the package is "a massive climb-down," Mr Rifkind mixed scientific jargon and indignation in thoroughly confusing fashion. Seeking to justify the Cabinet's 20 deployments of Britain's veto since May 21, he also insisted: "If anyone had said then that by the time of the European summit we would have had the European Commission tabling its own proposals, people would have said that is unachievable." That is a calculated misstatement by a reluctant warrior, who described as "ludicrous" suggestions that it might be three to five years before the ban was lifted. Ministers and whips will sell the deal as a victory, although not too hard for fear of pushing their luck. European colleagues still wince at the "game, set and match" claims made on Mr Major's behalf (actually the words were not his, but his press secretary's) after the Maastricht compromises in 1991. Many Germans especially, will not want to see such behaviour rewarded, even though as Labour was quick to point out - Britain's tactics have won neither a timetable for ending the ban, nor the automatic step-by-step lifting of it for which Tory MPs hoped. Those Euro-vets and four other EU committees will hold vetoes of their own for years, while no one expects German consumers to glimpse British beef again this century, whatever the Commission says. Ministers will keep their fingers crossed. The first bit of luck Mr Major needs is that the Tory tabloids do not deploy "Major in beef climb-down" headlines.

England team's performance likely to raise the score in boardrooms and bedrooms

John Mullin

ENGLAND awoke yesterday in a state of joyous disbelief. Few could have predicted the result against the Netherlands. Nobody could have guessed its impact on England's citizens, even those with little time for the game. Fiasco had threatened. There was the infamous Cathy Pacific display on return from the ill-judged Far East tour; dismay as the team crumbled against Switzerland, and, as recently as half-

time on Saturday, the knives were being sharpened to be plunged into Terry Venables. All changed, changed utterly. Yesterday, along with a team earlier dismissed as unfit boozers, the English coach, trying to quell over-arching optimism which suggests the trophy is as good as won, was deflated. Chris Evans kicked off his breakfast show on Radio 1 replaying the commentary. He treated listeners to the arguments of the Daily Mail's Jeff Powell. The previous morning on the Today programme, he had suggested Paul Gascoigne should be left out for the Dutch clash. Never had England gone to work before all happily humming a chart-topper. Nobody cared to shake the refrain of the Lightning Seeds from their heads: "It's coming home. It's coming home. Football's coming home." Hangovers had never felt quite so good. Psychologists were queuing up to explain why a 4-1 victory should have the English feeling as they must have done when Europe was liberated.

From the boardroom to the bedroom, folk are likely to be performing better. Good news for soccer widows then, themselves becoming turned on to Euro 96. Psychologists suggest the economy could also receive a boost. Ben Williams said: "People make a stronger commitment if they have high self-esteem. If we are associated with our team and it does well, then we'll feel a higher level of self-esteem which can enter into everything. Our performance will be better. We'll work better, socialise better, even con-

ceivably make love better, because we feel good about ourselves." Cary Cooper, a motivation expert from the Manchester University Institute of Science and Technology, pointed to the changing nature of work and society, and how it led to insecurity. The win provided a fillip amidst the hurly-burly of change. The reason for all this: natural opiates, released in the pleasure centres of the brain, induce a high. But Roy Bailey, a psychologist from the International Management

Centre in Birmingham, cautioned: "It doesn't last long." And what about poor Scotland? Would the cruel nature of their latest last-gasp demise result in more wife-beatings, assaults in the workplace, and vandalised towns? Not so, the Scots, it seems, are too well versed in the grinding inevitability of glorious failure to let a football match dent their sense of national identity. Leader comment, page 8; Sport, pages 14-16; Women, G2 page 5

Inside

Britain

Police hunting the Manchester bombers issued descriptions of two hooded men who drove the bomb to the city centre, and the courier.

World News

President Clinton's closest political adviser was named as an 'unindicted co-conspirator' in a criminal trial in Little Rock.

Finance

May's cold weather put the brakes on high-street spending as shoppers shunned new summer lines offered by clothing and footwear stores.

Sport

Portugal beat Croatia 3-0 to top their Euro 96 group and put both into the quarter-finals. Denmark beat Turkey but both go out.

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Handwritten Arabic text: سكران الاول



Simon Patterson, the bookmakers' favourite, at his studio in Bethnal Green, east London. 'I didn't know I was up for it until last week,' he said

PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID BELL/TOE

Turner shortlist fails to shock

'It's very boring and very dull. When you think that there's probably only one artist every generation who is any good, it's not surprising that they start scraping the bottom of the barrel'

Dan Glaiter on a contest between four British men for £20,000 annual award



The other contenders, from left: Douglas Gordon, Gary Hume, and Craigie Horsfield

FOR some it will be the most controversial shortlist in the recent history of the Turner Prize. For others it will provide a welcome rest from the "But is it art?" debate. The 1996 shortlist announced yesterday by Nick Serota, director of the Tate Gallery, includes four British artists, all male, chosen by a panel of four jurors, all male. But after Damien Hirst took the £20,000 prize last year with his formaldehyde-encased sheep, and Rachel Whiteread in 1993 with her concrete-encased house, the big shock in this year's shortlist was the absence of anything shocking.

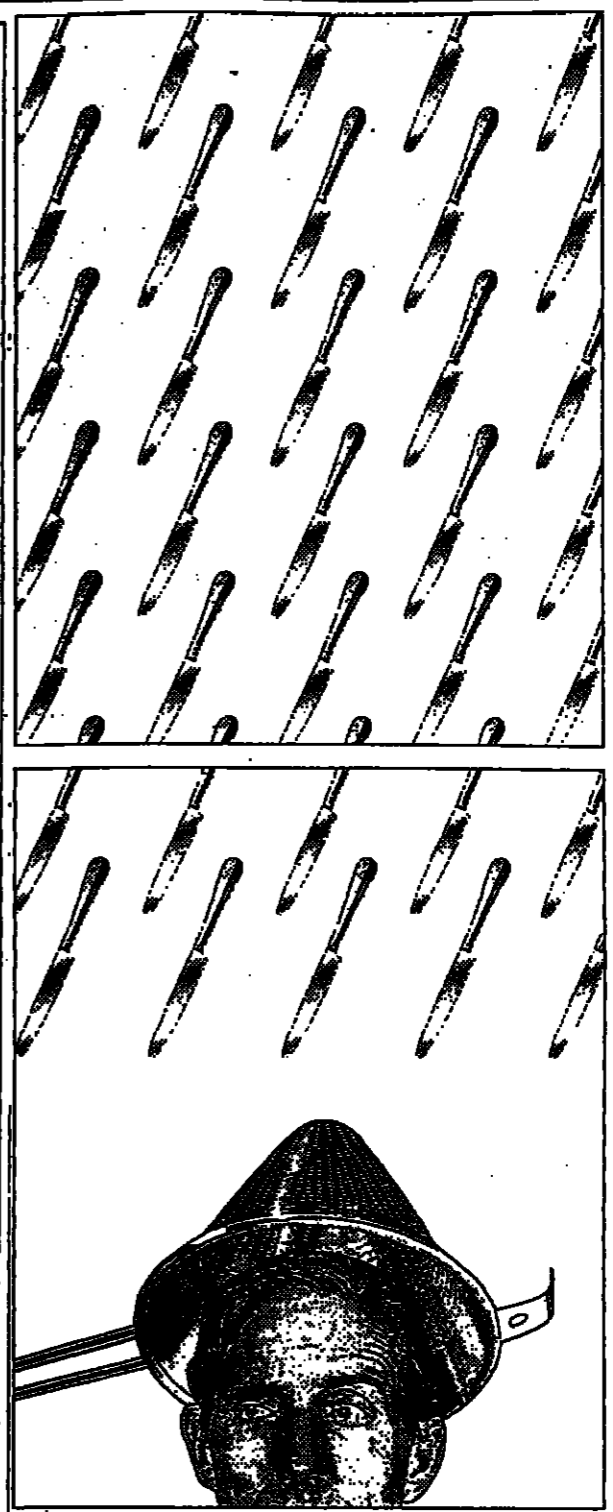
Work by the four nominees — Douglas Gordon, Craigie Horsfield, Gary Hume, and Simon Patterson — will go on show at the Tate in October. The winner will be announced in a ceremony to be broadcast live on Channel 4 on November 26. Douglas Gordon, aged 29, gained attention this year for his slowed-down version of the film Psycho, screened as part of the Hayward Gallery's Spellbound exhibition. It lasted 24 hours. Craigie Horsfield, aged 46, has come to prominence in the past eight years. His black and white photographs explore urban life

through nudes, landscapes and portraiture. Gary Hume, aged 29, is a painter, described by James Lingwood, one of the judges, as "a lyrical painter of the British zeitgeist at this incredibly interesting moment in British culture." His works include a surreal portrait of Tony Blackburn. Simon Patterson, also 29, uses familiar images to subvert the signs and symbols which rule our lives. Mr Serota said the jury had been surprised at the absence of women on the shortlist. "Maybe there is no single manifestation by a woman that really caught the eye," he said.

Catherine Lampert, director of the Whitechapel Gallery and a former Turner prize judge, professed surprise that no women were included. "Cornelia Parker must have been considered for her glass case at the Serpentine containing the access Tilda Swinton and Tracy Ermine and Georgina Starr have both produced notable work this year." Simon Patterson, 6/4 favourite with William Hill to win the prize, was surprised by the nomination. "I didn't know I was up for it until last week," he said. Nominations can be made by the public, and by the

judges. This year's judges considered 100 artists. "The Turner prize is always good fun," said Mr Patterson. "I'll just have to see how I cope with the attention." Around him were strewn works in progress, bits of wood, canvases and prints of his current work, based on the periodic tables. His best-known piece, The Great Bear, a play on the London Underground map, was propped against one wall. In the map, the names of stations and underground lines are changed. The Northern Line becomes The Film Actors' Line, the Victoria Line is devoted to Italian artists,

the Circle Line is the Philosophers' Line and the District Line is for Saints. The four will exhibit at the Tate until January. In previous years the work has only been exhibited for a month. Mr Serota said that the extension was in response to a rise in interest in contemporary art. "While we may not get the same level of fabled interest, I think that the general level of public interest can be maintained. Many people were coming in last year to see other works." David Lee, editor of Art Review magazine, was surprised the jury had chosen a shortlist lacking in notoriety. "I would have thought they would have capitalised on the publicity from last year," he said. "It's very boring and very dull. When you think that there's probably only one artist every generation who is any good, it's not surprising that they start scraping the bottom of the barrel." Gary Hume said he thought Damien Hirst should have been nominated for a second time "for doing what he does". The Turner Prize was founded in 1968. The first winner was Malcolm Morley, and subsequent winners have included Howard Hodgkin, Gilbert & George, Richard Long and Antony Gormley.

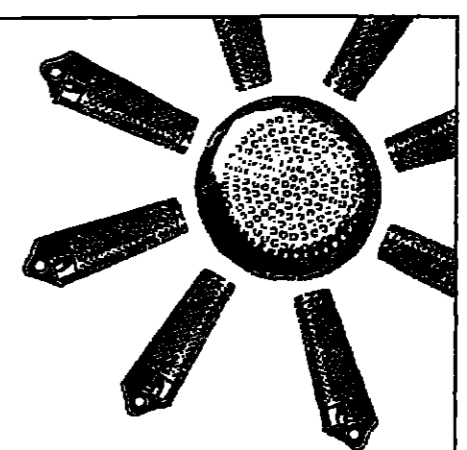


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Police hunt 'hooded bombers'

Detectives scan videos to trace vehicle's route to Manchester

Martyn Hales and Duncan Campbell

POLICE hunting the Manchester bombers yesterday issued the first descriptions of two hooded men who drove the bomb to the city centre, and the courier who paid for its purchase with an envelope containing £2,000. Detectives are also seeking a woman who they believe could help give them a clear description of one of the men they are hunting. Details emerged as a team of 60 detectives started trying to trace the team which planted one of the largest bombs detonated on the British mainland. It left more than 200 injured and caused an estimated £300 million damage. Detectives are now scrutinising videos which have been handed to the police to try and establish details in the bomb vehicle's last journey from Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, to Manchester. Assistant Chief Constable Colin Phillips of Greater Manchester Police, who is leading the hunt for the bombers, yesterday issued the descriptions in Manchester before travelling to Peterborough, where the vehicle was bought on Friday afternoon and where he made a second appeal for witnesses. He said a taxi driver at the front of a rank on Broadway,



'E' fit of the man seen asking taxi driver to deliver package

next to the Tesco store in the centre of Peterborough, was approached by a man about noon on Friday and offered money to deliver a package. The man, who spoke with an Irish accent and whose "E" fit was released yesterday, was described as between 35 and 40 years old, with a clean-shaven, round face. He had inch-long light brown hair and was said to be heavily built and "somewhat overweight". "He was wearing a pale, blue coloured buttoned-up shirt with long sleeves fastened at the wrist, and dark olive-coloured slacks," said Mr Phillips. "He was of a general untidy appearance." At a later Peterborough press conference, Mr Phillips asked for a white woman in

his red cab, on its 132-mile journey to Manchester. The driver would probably have stopped to buy diesel, and the police are also anxious to know where and when the bomb was assembled.

A video released yesterday showed the van, with its distinctive untreated plywood rear door, parked on double yellow lines in Manchester. Police believe one of the men in the van may have talked to someone in St Mary's Gate, Manchester minutes before it was parked at 9.20 am. "We are desperately trying to sort that out," said Mr Phillips. "We know who the person was, and we are just trying to trace them." He described one of the men as white, aged between 20 and 30, of slim build and between 5ft 8ins and 5ft 10ins tall. The man was wearing a navy blue hooded sweatshirt under a dark blue cagoule-type jacket, which was zipped.

His companion was also white, aged between 30 and 40, of medium build and about 6ft tall. He was wearing a grey hooded sweatshirt under a dark blue cagoule, also zipped. He was described as having a long nose. Both men wore sunglasses and had the hoods of their sweatshirts over their heads, and both were possibly wearing jeans. After leaving the van, the driver walked along the road for a few yards, along Corporation Street. His companion walked along the kerb. Mr Phillips said: "We are determined to track them down. It's going to be a very difficult and long inquiry and we are determined to amass as much information as we can. Morale in the team is very high."

Election boost for Yeltsin

David Hearst in Moscow

BORIS YELTSIN'S campaign to retain the presidency received a boost yesterday when three of the defeated candidates in Sunday's first-round election announced they would not support Gennady Zyuganov, Mr Yeltsin's Communist challenger, in the run-off next month. Svyatoslav Fyodorov, the millionaire eye surgeon who won 700,000 votes on Sunday, said he would support Mr Yeltsin — a day after the former army general Alexander Lebed, who came third with 11 million votes, joined Mr Yeltsin's kitchen cabinet. The radical nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, and the liberal economist Grigory Yavlinsky said they would not support Mr Zyuganov, but failed to endorse the president.

Desperate to stay in the game, Mr Zyuganov and his team counterattacked yesterday, praising key members of Mr Yeltsin's new team while trying to prise voters away. The Communists' message is that a country as divided as Russia can only be governed by the broadest possible coalition. The Zyuganov charm offensive started yesterday when Mikhail Lapsin, the leader of the leftwing Agrarian Party, said Yuri Luzhkov, the mayor of Moscow, would be a good choice as prime minister. Mr Luzhkov is a Yeltsin supporter, but has vast funds and political ambitions of his own.

Mr Zyuganov met and praised Mr Lebed, the new secretary of the powerful National Security Council. He maintained voters were not sheep who would follow Messrs Lebed, Fyodorov and Zhirinovskiy into the Yeltsin camp.

"There was no triumphalism in the Yeltsin camp yesterday. It is divided between those who want to crush the Communists and those who urge compromise, in the knowledge that they might need communist help in fending off a wave of industrial unrest in the autumn, if the near-bankrupt federal budget is unable to pay July and August wages.

Mr Yeltsin cancelled a trip to the G7 summit in Lyon next week, frightened to leave the country at such a critical time. The second round could be very close, and presidential advisers fear a low turnout — many richer Yeltsin supporters go on holiday in July. Vyacheslav Nikonov, an adviser, said that a turnout of only 50 million could lose Mr Yeltsin the election. With defections from the Lebed, Zhirinovskiy and Fyodorov camps, the Communist leader could muster 30 million votes. It would only take a modest military setback in Chechnya. The Central Election Commission yesterday proposed bringing the vote forward to Wednesday July 3, a date surprisingly agreed by Mr Zyuganov. Mr Yeltsin favours a weekday, when his supporters are in town, as opposed to a Sunday when they are at their dachas.

TV TIMES: Network chief attacks diet of sex and violence • Children prefer adult shows • Non-stop video games



Band of Gold (left) had merit but its scheduling alongside The Governor and Cracker made it "too dark, too heavy," Bruce Gyngell said, and there should have been more debate about Karaoke (right). He banned The Good Sex Guide (centre)

Television 'is sinking into sleaze'

Programmes 'would once have been shown only in Soho clip joints'

Andrew Culf
Media Correspondent

MAINSTREAM television is in danger of sinking into a mire of sleaze and violence, one of Britain's most senior broadcasters warned last night.

Bruce Gyngell, managing director of Yorkshire-Tyne Tees Television, said some of ITV's late night shows would previously have been screened only in Soho clip joints, while peak time dramas subjected viewers to an unremitting diet of violence.

He told an audience of television executives the medium should not be used to shock and offend by depicting extremes of behaviour.

Mr Gyngell, who returned to British television a year ago after two years in Australia, said: "In the past five years there has been a steady corrosion of values. A medium that once celebrated all that was positive and good in our culture is now beginning to denigrate those values."

The former TV-am chief



Bruce Gyngell: media should not be used to shock

has taken a firm line against programmes such as The Good Sex Guide and God's Gift, a late night dating game, by banning them from the Yorkshire region.

"We have reached the stage where so-called entertainment, which once could only be found in the seedy cellars and basements of Soho clip joints, is paraded on television as if it were respectable," he told a Royal Television Society dinner in London.

Managers should not be afraid to censor, Mr Gyngell argued. "We broadcasters have that duty — to ensure that what we put out, to ensure that it does not undermine society as a whole."

It would have been better to have had a public debate about the suitability of Den-

nis Potter's last works, Karaoke and Cold Lazarus — screened by BBC1 and Channel 4 and criticised for their strong language. "Instead of rushing to indulge the delusions of a dying man."

ITV drama including The Governor, Band of Gold, and Cracker, had great merit, but scheduling them in a block over the weekend was "too dark, too heavy and perhaps too ominous".

Mr Gyngell asked: "What are we doing to our sensibilities and moral values, and more importantly, those of our children, when day after day, we broadcast an unremitting diet of violence, extremes of sexuality, and of conflictual negative behaviour?"

"We have gone too far down the road of so-called freedom, and our terrestrial television is in danger of becoming a mire of salaciousness, negativity and violence. It's not all right that the worst excesses are late at night; children do watch them, and they do have video recorders."

ITV was in danger of throwing away the public's trust for the sake of a few rating points late at night.

It had become fashionable among certain sections of the television community to vie with each other to see who could produce the most risqué programme.

Mr Gyngell denied his views were illiberal or anti-creative; it was the job of broadcasters to improve standards not destroy them.

Children reveal adult viewing tastes as soaps beat shows for young in ratings

CHILDREN prefer adult programmes, including EastEnders, Brookside and The X-Files, rather than shows specifically made for their age range, according to research published yesterday, writes Andrew Culf.

Australian soaps, including Home and Away and Neighbours, were more popular choices than Blue Peter or Grange Hill among the children questioned for the Children's Media Monitor Survey.

The findings coincided with a BBC governors' seminar in which the future of children's broadcasting in a digital, multi-channel environment was discussed.

Senior BBC executives for BBC TV, warned: "If children do not inherit, choose and habitually learn the values of public service broadcasting from a schedule that makes them laugh, think and learn, the BBC's future will be jeopardised."

Michael Green, control-

Watching without Mother
Programmes attracting largest audience of 4- to 15-year-olds between Jan - May 1996 (000s)

Honey! Blew Up The Kids (ITV)	2,941
Gladiators: The Ashes (ITV)	2,828
Neighbours (BBC1)	2,772
Casualty (BBC1)	2,735
Gladiators (ITV)	2,677
National Lottery Live (BBC1)	2,547
EastEnders (BBC1)	2,536
Coronation Street (ITV)	2,490
Demon Headmaster (BBC1)	2,434
New Adventures of Superman (BBC1)	2,424

Some of our favourite things
Survey of 1,002 children, aged 7-17 years old, %

Home and Away (ITV)	8
Neighbours (BBC1)	7
Soldier, Soldier (ITV)	6
EastEnders (BBC1)	4
The X-Files (BBC1)	4
Match of the Day (BBC1)	4

ler of Radio 4, said the appetite of children for radio drama and story-telling had declined.

He said only 10 per cent of the audience for the Sunday night drama slot aimed at youngsters consisted of children.

Children's BBC wins a 40 per cent share of the children's audience, but faces increasing cable and satel-

Cable channel offers Sonic the Hedgehog video game round the clock

VIDEO games like Sonic the Hedgehog and Ecco the Dolphin became available round the clock yesterday with the launch of the Sega Channel, Europe's first interactive games network.

For a subscription of £10 per month, cable television households will be able to buy 24-hour access to 25 games each month, as well as previews of new titles.

Educationalists yesterday voiced concern about the amount of time children spent on computer games. Research last year by Plymouth university found that one in four played more than 30 hours a week, at the expense of homework.

Tim Gill, policy officer at the Children's Play Council, said the video games must be put into context. "It's not a matter of these things being good or bad. These games are a consequence of children kept indoors more because of concerns about the safety of the outdoor environment."

Sega said that parents could programme the system to control the hours per week their



Reg, from ITV's Scratchy & Co. at the Sega launch

children could play on it. Games also have a four-tier rating, allowing parents to bar access to unsuitably violent levels using a personal identification number system.

Telewest Communications, Britain's largest operator, has become the first network to take the channel.

Sega is likely to increase the cable market; children under 15 account for more than 50 per cent of the cable-viewing audience. Figures published this month by the Independent Television Commission show ad that more people sign up for cable companies' cheap phone services than buy their TV packages.

The channel will also strengthen Sega's grip on the British video games market.

Court focuses on 'blurred wedding video'

John Mullin

WEDDING videos are all the rage these days, and there was plenty of that at Birmingham crown court yesterday. So much for the film being a treasured record of the happiest day in the lives of David Farrell and Sarah Edwards.

Paul Miles, a professional cameraman who has worked on Tomorrow's World and Boon, found his video proved anything but for the Wolverhampton couple. It is said to have included out of focus shots of the bride's dress; guests' faces merging into the shadows; and blurred zoom shots at St Phillip's Church, Wolverhampton, on August 26 last year.

Barrie Blackmore, of Bar-



Barrie Blackmore... wants refund and compensation



Paul Miles... claimed video would be fine after editing

throughout yesterday's hearing. Mr Blackmore, representing himself, repeatedly interrupted when questioning Mr Miles. Judge David McCarthy warned him: "Please do not be offensive to a witness in the case."

Wolverhampton county court, sitting in Birmingham, had previously watched the video on a television Mr Blackmore had brought to court.

Mr Miles alleged the contrast and colour settings had been tampered with to make his video look bad. A court television was used yesterday; still the men failed to agree on the correct brightness and colour settings.

Mr Blackmore, representing himself, told Mr Miles: "This kind of work is in demand throughout the television cor-

porations. Is what we are seeing here the type of tape you would produce for the networks?"

Mr Miles, a senior lecturer in television studies at Sandwell College in the West Midlands, believed his edited and colour-enhanced tape of the wedding was of merchantable quality.

He had offered to improve the video before the newlyweds returned from honeymoon. But Mr Blackmore had refused to hand over a copy. He had gone to his employers, threatening media exposure.

Mr Miles said: "If he was a businessman of repute, his sole intention would be to his client. I had never known a company try to get retribution like this rather than sort out the problem."

The case continues.

Tanker pilot accused

Paul Brown
Environment Correspondent

JOHN Pearn, pilot of the tanker Sea Empress which ran aground at Milford Haven in February, appeared before a tribunal yesterday charged with behaving with either incompetence or misconduct.

Mr Pearn, aged 34, faces losing his licence and his job if found guilty by the three-man tribunal of the board of the Milford Haven Port Authority, which is meeting in private.

There was surprise yesterday that the authority, some of whose members may face criticism over the oil spill disaster, is acting against the pilot before the Department of Transport has issued its own

report on the incident. Mr Pearn was charged under the Pilotage Act of 1987 with "misconduct or incompetence affecting his capabilities as a pilot."

A spokesman for the authority said he had continued in his job since the incident. However, the government inquiry report would not be published for another 18 months, and it was felt any action against the pilot should be taken sooner rather than later.

On February 15 the ship hit the rocks on its way into Milford Haven with 150,000 tonnes of crude oil on board. Around 70,000 tonnes of the oil spilled into the sea and contaminated the coast. The clean-up is still under way.

The inquiry team is looking into Mr Pearn's conduct and

role, and why the tanker apparently veered off course on to the rocks. All sides are represented by lawyers. Mr Pearn has chosen not to speak publicly since the accident.

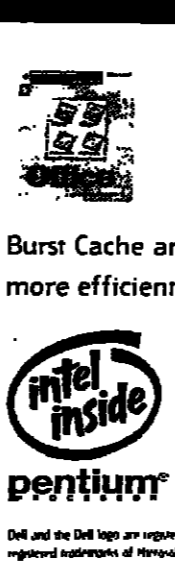
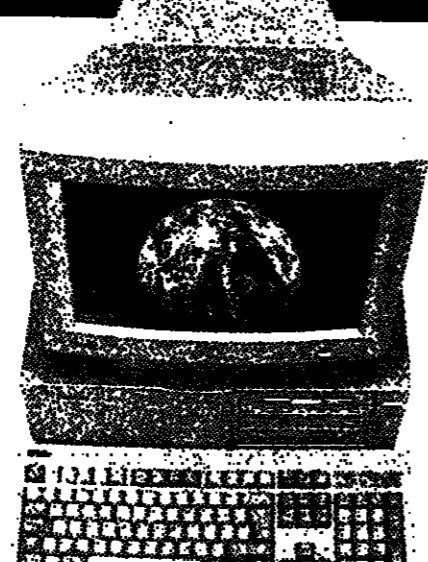
If the allegations against him are proved his pilot's licence could be suspended or revoked, effectively stopping him from working. He would have the right of appeal to the full board of the port authority and the courts.

Some fellow pilots have complained privately that the hearing is like a court martial, and they fear that Mr Pearn will be made a scapegoat even though others in more senior positions had roles in the disaster.

Mike Hyslop, the authority's general manager, said the hearing was expected to conclude today.

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'Gritty' Major deploys balancing act to stay on the EU tightrope

Federalism rejected but Britain will not 'turn back on Europe'

Michael White Political Editor

JOHN Major yesterday warned both sides in the running controversy over the future shape of Europe that he will go on fighting for the flexible Anglo-Saxon model, even if it means that Britain will remain the troublesome "grit in the European oyster."

Faced with a simmering feud within his party, Mr Major again sought to walk the Euro-tightrope between both extremes. "We gain tre-

mendous benefits from being part of Europe. While I have made clear that I will not allow Britain to be absorbed into centralised federal structures, neither do I contemplate turning our back on Europe," he said.

Warning his EU partners that the threat to their prosperity will come from eastern Europe as well from Asia in the next 20 years, the Prime Minister insisted that Britain's deregulated, low tax approach to economic management was the best way forward. "Our arguments about the future of Europe

are arguments we must seek to win not just for Britain, but for Europe as a whole," he told a City audience in Goldsmith's Hall — which was not named after the founder of the Reformist Party.

Mr Major attacked the social chapter — "it has good intentions, but had outcomes" — and said the EU faced an economic challenge to become more competitive as well as a political challenge "to accommodate an enlarged membership with increasingly diverse opinions and interests."

On a day when a Harris poll for the Independent shows strong hostility to a single Euro-currency when blunt questions are asked of French and German as well as British voters, Mr Major's remarks

will nonetheless annoy EU colleagues gathering for the summit in Florence.

Without directly reminding his other audience in Brussels of their protectionist traditions and their history of wartime conquest and defeat, Mr Major argued that Britain's instincts and traditions were different from theirs in crucial respects.

"Of course, we have much more in common than divides us. But we are instinctive free traders. Not all our partners share those same instincts. Our 20th century experiences are different. Our politics are more black and white, more adversarial, more blood and thunder, so we are sometimes uneasy partners. That may mean bumpy times ahead,

but it is nonsense to suggest the only choice is to accept Europe as it is offered, or negotiate an exit," said Mr Major, who offered a distinctly unapologetic justification of his tactics over beef and the post-Maastricht review.

Urging respect for widely-different traditions, he said: "Political structures simply won't work unless their legitimacy is accepted willingly by the people they govern. That's why I believe in retaining the nation state as the fundamental unit of sovereignty."

Yet he went on to list issues on which closer co-operation could develop, ranging from defence and anti-crime work to reform of EU institutions.

Hugo Young, page 9



Boats on the Thames at Westminster in readiness for the annual Commons v Lords sailing race, which was won this year by the Lords. PHOTOGRAPH BY MARTIN ANGLIS

BSE cull extension deal signals big British retreat

Stephen Bates in Strasbourg and David Henick

BRITAIN yesterday signalled agreement to the extension of up to an additional 87,000 elderly cattle to prevent the collapse of the Florence summit, save John Major's face and end the prospect of the Government's European Union non-co-

operation policy dragging on into the autumn.

The Government still insists that European proposals to extend the cull to include those born in 1989 from BSE-infected herds are scientifically unnecessary and difficult to implement, because mandatory birth records for cattle were only introduced in 1990.

Ministers' embarrassment was increased yesterday with the revelation that John Gum-

mer, then agriculture minister, turned down a £10 million plan to set up a national cattle database which could have saved some of the £600 million cost of slaughtering cows to prevent the disease spreading.

The deal agreed yesterday is in addition to the slaughter of all animals aged more than 30 months, or at the end of their working lives, which the Government has started to implement. The new cull could

amount to as many as 87,000 cattle, or could be as few as a third of that number, since many are likely already to have been killed routinely or because of the emergency BSE culling policy.

Extending the cull amounts to a considerable change in Britain's position since the crisis broke in March. First the Agriculture Minister, Douglas Hogg, suggested the number of extra cattle to be culled, apart from those older than 30 months would be in the "tens of thousands". Then he insisted 42,000 would be the highest number he could persuade MPs to accept.

In May, the Government suddenly said it would be prepared to slaughter up to 80,000 cattle. The latest retreat, accepted yesterday by Keith Melderum, the chief veterinary officer, at a meeting of the veterinary committee in Brussels, takes that figure to nearly 150,000.

The veterinary committee indicated last Friday that it would be prepared — despite misgivings from some member states — to accept a culling policy dated back to 1988, the year the Government first instructed farmers to stop feeding animal meal to their stock.

The proposal — which Mr Hogg had insisted a day earlier was based on "a pretty slight foundation" when he appeared before the Commons agricultural committee — was accepted to break the

diplomatic logjam in advance of tomorrow's summit.

Britain originally balked at the extra year partly because of the difficulties of tracing animals born before the birth registration policy was introduced.

Robin Turner, director of National Milk Records, confirmed yesterday that tracing infected cattle and pinpointing herds at risk would be far easier if a national database mooted in the late 1980s were in operation.

Mr Turner said the scheme was suggested between 1988 and 1990 as a way of improving genetic standards of cattle. "Arguments against it included the technology was cumbersome, and that it would cost £10 million to introduce, and the industry was divided over it. But the main reason was that the Ministry of Agriculture signalled that it was not prepared to fund it."

A compromise voluntary system covers only 1.2 million cattle. But yesterday Tony Baldry, the junior agriculture minister, said officials were discussing an extension of the existing database with National Milk Records, in a parliamentary reply to Peter Hain, Labour MP for North

Hain, Labour MP for North East. Mr Hain said yesterday: "For the small investment of £10 million, at least part of a £600 million bill could have avoided and Britain's beef exports might now be back on track."

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EMOTIONS MAY BE COMPLEX BUT DIVORCE IS, IN ESSENCE, ABOUT THE OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY, CAPITAL AND CHILDREN. Suzanne Moore

G2 page 7

Whirling Snowflake stirs a cultural storm

Andrew Higgins meets an ageing icon of Chinese beauty who has revived an old tradition in the literary press

OVER the millennia, the Chinese literati have always relished a good row. The arcana of Confucianism, the prosody of Tang dynasty verse and the peculiarly occult dogmas of modern Maoism have all propelled feisty polemics.



才子佳人 Gifted scholar, beautiful woman

The woman exciting some of China's finest minds is Gong Xuehua (Snowflake Gong), otherwise known as Coco, a one-time Red Guard from Shanghai who shot to stardom last year when she took the stage with hundreds of women half her age to finish fourth in the Miss Asia Pageant in Hong Kong.

Her achievements since then include a colour spread in a Chinese-language edition of Penthouse, assorted roles in Hong Kong soap operas, and a just completed autobiography entitled, with characteristic immodesty, Overnight Sensation.

an insouciance that raises eyebrows even in Hong Kong, a city of self-made immigrants which usually regards the right to reinvent oneself as the most basic of human liberties.

her marital status, two children she says belong to someone else, and her date of birth. "I can't tell you my birthday because Chinese can tell fortunes. If they know exactly when you were born they can work out your destiny and publish it in the papers."



crowd the columns of Guangzhou Literature and Art, the Shanghai Literary Journal and Hong Kong's highbrow Ming Pao Monthly.

translated and published in Britain. Writing recently in Guangzhou Literature and Art, Mr Zhang explained how he had met Ms Gong during a visit to Hong Kong and accepted her offer of a place to stay.

in the sky. When a snowflake hits the ground it turns to mud, but words can preserve such a snowflake, creating a specimen that can freeze her natural form on the page.

Musings on the definition of beauty are familiar in Chinese literature. It is a theme with particular poignancy for tens of millions of middle-aged Chinese who, like Ms Gong and Mr Zhang, lost their youth to the madness of the Cultural Revolution and other political campaigns.

experience is so much a part of Chinese literature that the story line of countless classic romances has been distilled into a single four-character phrase: *caizi xuehu* — gifted scholar, beautiful woman.

An editorial in the same organ quoted China's greatest modern writer, Lu Xun, on the perils of "empty and insipid" themes. "It cannot be denied that a woman of over 40 competing in a Hong Kong beauty contest is news, a simple amusement to relieve boredom — but how sad for a pen that has created such moving works in the past."

The journal quoted an unnamed intellectual as grumbling: "Yet another famous figure has fallen for her." As long as intellectuals were squabbling among themselves in private or in obscure journals, the Communist Party paid little attention. But this changed when the mass circulation *Ran City Evening News*, the most popular newspaper in Guangzhou, began to serialise Mr Zhang's paean of praise to Snowflake Gong.

Cultural commissars in the southern city's Communist Party propaganda department denounced the work as "low-grade" and called a meeting to criticise the *Evening News* for reprinting it, according to sources in Hong Kong.

The party, famously disolute in private but rigidly prudish in public, prefers more conventional models of blushing femininity. Appearing last week in the lobby of a Hong Kong shopping mall alongside three young starlets to launch a recruitment drive for this year's Miss Asia contest, Ms Gong revelled in the new wave of publicity.

The peoples of the tropical forests face threats from developers thousands of miles apart. In South America, Paul Brown writes, tribes have been wiped out by disease as settlers and loggers invade — with international connivance. In Malaysia, writes Nicholas Cumming-Bruce, campaigners now have the law on their side but may have won only a temporary reprieve

Brazil 'diverted' World Bank aid

MORE than £100 million from the World Bank provided to rectify its own environmental mistakes in Brazil has been diverted into damaging road-building and ranching projects, according to Oxfam.

Rondonia was opened up by World Bank funds in the 1970s and 1980s, when money was provided to build roads, and thousands of settlers moved in. Forests were cut down and whole tribes of Indians which previously had little contact with the outside world were wiped out by diseases brought in by the settlers.

was put forward as part of this process. Yesterday the bank expressed dismay at the Oxfam statement. "We have to work with the local government; it is a difficult thing to control in what amounts to a frontier situation. We will listen to what they say and try and make things better," a spokesman said.

over the project. Community initiatives, the indigenous health programme and support for environmental reserves have all suffered from not receiving earmarked funds, and are all at a virtual standstill.

Court rules against Mahathir dam

MALAYSIA'S high court delivered an embarrassing rebuff to the government yesterday, ruling that a mammoth dam to be built in Sarawak, a pet project of the prime minister, Mahathir Mohamad, breaks environmental law.

their views on it heard. The federal government had short-circuited this process by transferring the project to the jurisdiction of Sarawak state, where environmental rules are more relaxed and the state government, a major shareholder in the venture, sees no merit in public debate.

and comment, usually for 30-45 days. It remains far from clear, however, how long the ruling will delay a project on which Dr Mahathir has staked so much prestige.

Leader comment, page 8

'Secret' bullet factory sparks fears in Kenya

Belgians are joining the protests against a costly armaments plant in President Moi's heartland, writes Greg Barrow in Nairobi

THE citizens of Eldoret, a small town at the top of the Rift Valley, cannot believe their luck. Eldoret, once known only for its mushroom farming and world-class middle-distance athletes, has become Kenya's main beneficiary of government development money and industrial growth schemes.

as Burundi, Somalia and Sudan — all embroiled in conflicts.

Under normal circumstances, a cross-party defence committee should have examined the project, but it too has been kept in the dark. Mr Moi says there is nothing sinister about the bullet factory, and claims it is a government project funded from the military budget. The subject has, however, raised concern in Belgium, home to the armaments manufacturer Fabrique Nationale Herstal, which is helping to build the Eldoret factory and supplying much of the machinery.

Some Belgian MPs have questioned whether it is wise for a Belgian company to support the factory in a country with a questionable human rights record. They also point to potential arms markets in neighbouring countries such

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10 OBITUARIES

Gesualdo Bufalino

Citizen of everywhere

THE LEAST provincial of modern European writers, Gesualdo Bufalino, who has died after a car accident at the age of 75, was also among the least known...

cause shadows of the past lie so inexorably across every aspect of life in the island...



Know thyself — I'd have to be mad! God is better than he seems, creation doesn't do him justice...

Not until he was 30, however, and established in his chosen profession as a teacher, did he begin to write, completing a first novel Diceria dell'Untore...

Lame, having arrived so late, made little difference to the generally quiet tenor of his life as author and teacher...

There are affectionate parodies of medieval and Renaissance romance styles, clever stabs at urban realism, sly pastiches of Calvino's manner and sidelong glances at the world of the giallo...

Half a century has been enough, wrote Bufalino in a recent essay in the Guardian's Writing Home series in 1992...



Gesualdo Bufalino, at home in Sicily, drawn for the Guardian by Tullio Pericoli

If he emerges, within the compass of a small number of published works, as one of Italy's most accomplished writers, then it is worth recalling that he achieved that distinction by staying where he was...

Jonathan Keates Patrick Creagh, prizewinning translator of Bufalino into English, adds I mourn for Gesualdo Bufalino because as a writer and as a man there was always nobody like him...

Such quietude as these scarcely plumb the depths of Bufalino but they may provide some key to the character of this outstandingly original author...

He had a strong faith in the value of the past, of memory, as a source of energy with which to face the future...

He was unmarriageable and throughout his life he shared a home of contentment with his sister, Hermione...

He wrote a wonderful piece, not really about Italian nationality at all but about the complexities, the contradictions, the pains and joys of his own Sicilian identity...

Sir Maitland Mackie

Spurred on to achievements at Balmoral

SIR MAITLAND Mackie, who has died aged 84, was Lord Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire from 1975 until 1987...

Quite what the Queen and other members of the Royal family made of him is an interesting speculation. When he first met the Queen Mother, he explained that he was wearing his fancy uniform for the first time...

He recorded a good few of them in a delightful volume of memoirs, a book with an authenticity which exactly reflects the optimism which was his main characteristic...

He had a full life. He was a highly efficient and successful dairy farmer near Inverurie, twice the Liberal parliamentary candidate, a member of the Aberdeenshire County Council from 1961 to 1976...

a vast number of new schools and ensuring that they all had either gymnasiums or swimming pools, or both...

But perhaps his most significant monument, and certainly the one which Scots would thank him for enthusiastically, is the liberalisation of Scotland's licensing laws...

Mackie records a book that when the committee's report was formally delivered to Campbell, the minister told reporters that he would now consult the appropriate people about what to do...

Through his parents were both Tories, one brother was a minister in the Wilson government, and the other is Liberal Democrat peer, Miesat as an independent on the county council. But he remained a Liberal to the end.

Spread a little happiness



Vivian Ellis... 50 years of pop hits

VIVIAN ELLIS, who has died aged 91, combined a fluent talent for bitter-sweet melodies with a sharp business brain...

Some of his melodies have had a more lasting quality than many of the genre. Spread a Little Happiness was revived by Sting in 1993 for the film version of Dennis Potter's play, Emmerdale and Treacle...

He was unmarriageable and throughout his life he shared a home of contentment with his sister, Hermione. Since 1938 they had lived in a Somerset cottage where gardening was his great love...

He also wrote humorous books (How to Enjoy Your Operation), books for children and two volumes of autobiography. Some of his melodies have had a more lasting quality than many of the genre...

Prof William Balchin, geographer, 80; Sir Brian Barber, high commissioner to Australia, 62; Dame Catherine Cookson, novelist, 90; Lord Cranbrook, chairman, English Nature, 63; Olympia Dukakis, actress, 68; Brig Jill Field, former director, Army Nursing Services, 62; Stephen Frears, film director, 58; David French, convener, Family Law Bill Coalition, 49; Nicole Kidman, actress, 30; Allan Lamb, cricketer, 42; Cyndi Lauper, rock singer, 43; Sheila McLean, Prof of Law & Ethics in Medicine, Glasgow University, 45; Sir David Mitchell, Conservative MP, 68; Johnny Morris, broadcaster, 80; Sir Anthony Pilkington, chairman, Pilkington Glass, 61; Paul Ramirez, tennis player, 48; Peter Reid, football manager, 40; Vikram Seth, novelist, 44; Prof Sir Richard Southwood, zoologist, 65; Claire Tomalin, biographer, 63; John Taylor, rock singer, 36; The Rt Rev John Waime, former Bishop of Chelmsford, 86; Brian Wilson, rock singer, 55.

Jackdaw



don't wash my silks). Parenting — no, it doesn't end with conception. Get a life — learn how to cook. How not to act like an asshole when you are obviously wrong. Spelling — even you can get it right. Understanding your financial incompetence. You — the weaker sex. Reasons to give flowers. How to stay awake after sex. Why it is unacceptable to relieve yourself anywhere but the toilet. Garbage — getting it to the bin. Sex 101 — you can fall asleep without it if you really try. Sex 102 — the morning dilemma — if it's awake, take a shower. The weekend and sport are not synonymous. How to put the toilet seat down. How to go shopping with your mate and not get lost. The remote control — over-coming your dependency. Helpful postural hints for couch potatoes.

Life Lessons

SEMINARS FOR MEN Once again, the female staff will be offering courses to men of any marital status. Class size will be limited to 10 as course material may prove to be difficult. COURSE TITLES Combating stupidity. You too can do housework. PMS — Learning when to keep your mouth shut. How to fill an ice cube tray. We do not want sleazy underthings for Christmas. Understanding the female response to you coming in drunk at 4am. Wonderful laundry techniques (formerly known as

No God

YOU ask me if my notions about En attendant Godot, extracts from the famous broadcasting at the Club d'Essai, and at the same time for my notions about dramatic art. I am not versed in it. I am not a theatre-goer. This is admission.

Cold turkey

THE following morning, he was dragged off for a non-random drugs test, then, a week later, appeared on adjudication where he threw himself on the mercy of the governor and admitted still using heroin (thus saving the prison, inter alia, the cost of the expensive re-testing procedure). Yes, he still had a plus, more importantly, had been out for three-quarters, and progress was slowly but surely being made.

Prospect: cold turkey cure

When Darren, minus his 35 days remission was returned to the wing, the senior officer was there to greet him. "We've had enough of you running around the wing as 'Igh' as a kite. You've been on this course 12 weeks now. That's long enough to be off the class A's."

Engagements

COLEMAN ROBERTS Emma Coleman and Bill Roberts are Weddington, Bedfordshire. They are delighted to announce their engagement, and send their very best wishes to the bride and groom. Write to place your announcement telephone 0171 713 4567 Fax 0171 713 4122

Acknowledgments

SOURCES: Durham, Mrs Eileen Squires and family would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their letters, cards and kind expressions of sympathy. Mrs Squires is particularly grateful for the generous donations received in lieu of flowers and for the kind contribution for a most comforting funeral service.

Death Notices

MORRAN, Alfred Dennis, peacefully on June 19th 1996, aged 70. Dearly loved husband, father and grandfather. Buried at Westcott Church, Woodstock Road, Oxford on Wednesday June 20th 1996 at 2.00pm. Memorial service by invitation at Wolvercote Cemetery, Oxford on Wednesday June 27th 1996 at 11.00am. Contributions for The British Heart Foundation may be sent to Revue and Path, 19 Fairway, Henley-on-Thames, Oxford. Telephone 01895 371150.

Birthdays

Prof William Balchin, geographer, 80; Sir Brian Barber, high commissioner to Australia, 62; Dame Catherine Cookson, novelist, 90; Lord Cranbrook, chairman, English Nature, 63; Olympia Dukakis, actress, 68; Brig Jill Field, former director, Army Nursing Services, 62; Stephen Frears, film director, 58; David French, convener, Family Law Bill Coalition, 49; Nicole Kidman, actress, 30; Allan Lamb, cricketer, 42; Cyndi Lauper, rock singer, 43; Sheila McLean, Prof of Law & Ethics in Medicine, Glasgow University, 45; Sir David Mitchell, Conservative MP, 68; Johnny Morris, broadcaster, 80; Sir Anthony Pilkington, chairman, Pilkington Glass, 61; Paul Ramirez, tennis player, 48; Peter Reid, football manager, 40; Vikram Seth, novelist, 44; Prof Sir Richard Southwood, zoologist, 65; Claire Tomalin, biographer, 63; John Taylor, rock singer, 36; The Rt Rev John Waime, former Bishop of Chelmsford, 86; Brian Wilson, rock singer, 55.

Retail

M

The C&G has agreed

Societies

BRM mark 2 second-best plan, says lamfalussy

150

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian

Retail fall 'due to weather'

Larry Elliott
Economics Editor

MAY's cold weather put the brakes on spending last month as shoppers shunned the new summer lines offered by clothing and footwear stores, the Government said yesterday.

Analysts said news that retail sales volumes dropped by 0.1 per cent between April and May should not be seen as support for Chancellor Kenneth Clarke's decision to cut base rates to 5.75 per cent earlier this month.

They added that anecdotal evidence for June suggested that clothing and footwear sales had been boosted by warmer weather and this was likely to be reflected next month. Data for March and April was also revised down, but the Treasury said that sales remained on "an upward trend".

still a complete absence of significant inflationary pressures and growth in the economy remained below trend".

May, retail sales volumes were 0.5 per cent higher than in the previous three months and 2 per cent up on the March to May period of 1995.

The annual increase in sales has been running at around 3 per cent since the start of the year, with the strong performance of larger stores — with an annual turnover of at least £4.5 million — offsetting poor returns from smaller concerns.

Notebook

After the end of the metal reign



Edited by
Alex Brummer

THE London Metal Exchange (LME) has been so disconcerted by the Sumitomo scandal that it had little alternative but to call in the Securities Investment Board (SIB) to review its trading practices.

go unchecked for 10 years, and why warnings in 1991, 1993 and finally 1995 — not to mention a volatile copper market — failed to alert participants. Fortunately, the story should not now be that long in coming out. Sumitomo helpfully is to open all its books to regulators, and presumably Mr Hamanaka will have the opportunity to talk to the CFTC, SFA, SIB and anyone else who wants to be part of this operation.

The C&G has agreed a £14m pay-out for home income plan victims. Teresa Hunter reports

Elderly couple look for relief from mortgage nightmare

FORMER post office worker Don Bryan, who suffers from a serious chest complaint, wanted only to afford a month in the sun each winter when he started a home income plan with the now-defunct Aylesbury Associates.



Societies face multi-million pound claims

NINE leading building societies face multi-million pound claims from elderly homeowners after the Cheltenham & Gloucester yesterday agreed to pay up to £14 million for its role in the home income plan victims.

Scheme (ICS) compensation which has already paid £6.3 million to C&G borrowers.

The advisers disappeared when the bonds crashed and property prices simultaneously collapsed. The pensioners were left with interest accruing on debts they had no means of servicing.

The ICS had issued writs against the C&G and West Bromwich societies, which it claimed had helped devise and sell the plans with the financial advisers. Legal action against C&G will now be cancelled following yesterday's settlement.

Northern Rock, Bristol & West, the old Leeds Permanent (now part of the Halifax) and Alliance & Leicester all face compensation claims although the ICS accepts they merely granted the mortgages.

on additional help to those investors who were so badly let down by the financial advisers who sold them the plans.

ERM mark 2 second-best plan, says Lamfalussy

Mark Milner
European Business Editor

AREVAMPED European exchange rate mechanism would be unlikely to suffer the attacks from currency market speculators which virtually wrecked the original version, according to Alexandre Lamfalussy, president of the European Monetary Institute.

Santer raises stakes in trade spat with US over Cuba

Larry Elliott
Economics Editor

THE European Union and the United States were last night poised for a new trade conflict after Brussels warned of retaliation if European firms are hit by Washington's anti-Cuba sanctions.

Hyder axes 900 as dividend rises

Chris Barrie
Business Correspondent

THE Welsh water and electricity company, Hyder, reignited controversy over job losses and profits in privatised utilities yesterday by announcing that it would axe 900 people, step up payments to shareholders and cut back investment in renewable energy projects.

Warning that Labour would impose a windfall tax if it came to power, he said: "The bosses at Welsh Water should be spending their time solving the problem of leakage instead of squeezing profits out of the consumer."

Cost-cutting already underway would be saving a further £54 million a year by the end of the decade, with 330 jobs going.

Hyder turned in pretax profits 6.2 per cent lower at £112.9 million, on turnover of £61.6 million. Stripping out exceptional items, profits rose 12.8 per cent to £167.9 million. The full-year dividend of 38.7p a share is 14.2 per cent higher.

Railtrack signals cost-cutting plan

Keith Harper
Transport Editor

RAILTRACK threatened yesterday to reduce jobs in a plan for cutting costs and raising efficiency that would allow it to raise dividend payments.

Holistic Systems on a high as buy-out nets staff £54m

Sarah Whitebloom

ACCIDENTS do happen. A chance look at a newspaper advertisement in 1999 came good yesterday with a £54 million fortune for the founder and 32 of the staff of the private UK software company Holistic Systems.

ERM mark 2 second-best plan, says Lamfalussy

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Transport Editor

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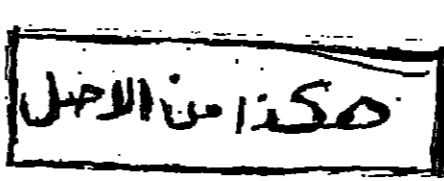
Holistic Systems on a high as buy-out nets staff £54m

Sarah Whitebloom

ACCIDENTS do happen. A chance look at a newspaper advertisement in 1999 came good yesterday with a £54 million fortune for the founder and 32 of the staff of the private UK software company Holistic Systems.

had never even touched a computer. But that did not stop him joining the computer bureau. And yesterday, the US-owned Seagate Technology Inc paid the Manchester-born computer expert, now based in Ealing, west London, and his colleagues \$84 million (£54 million) for what they now know.

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli sheqat).



12 SPORTS NEWS

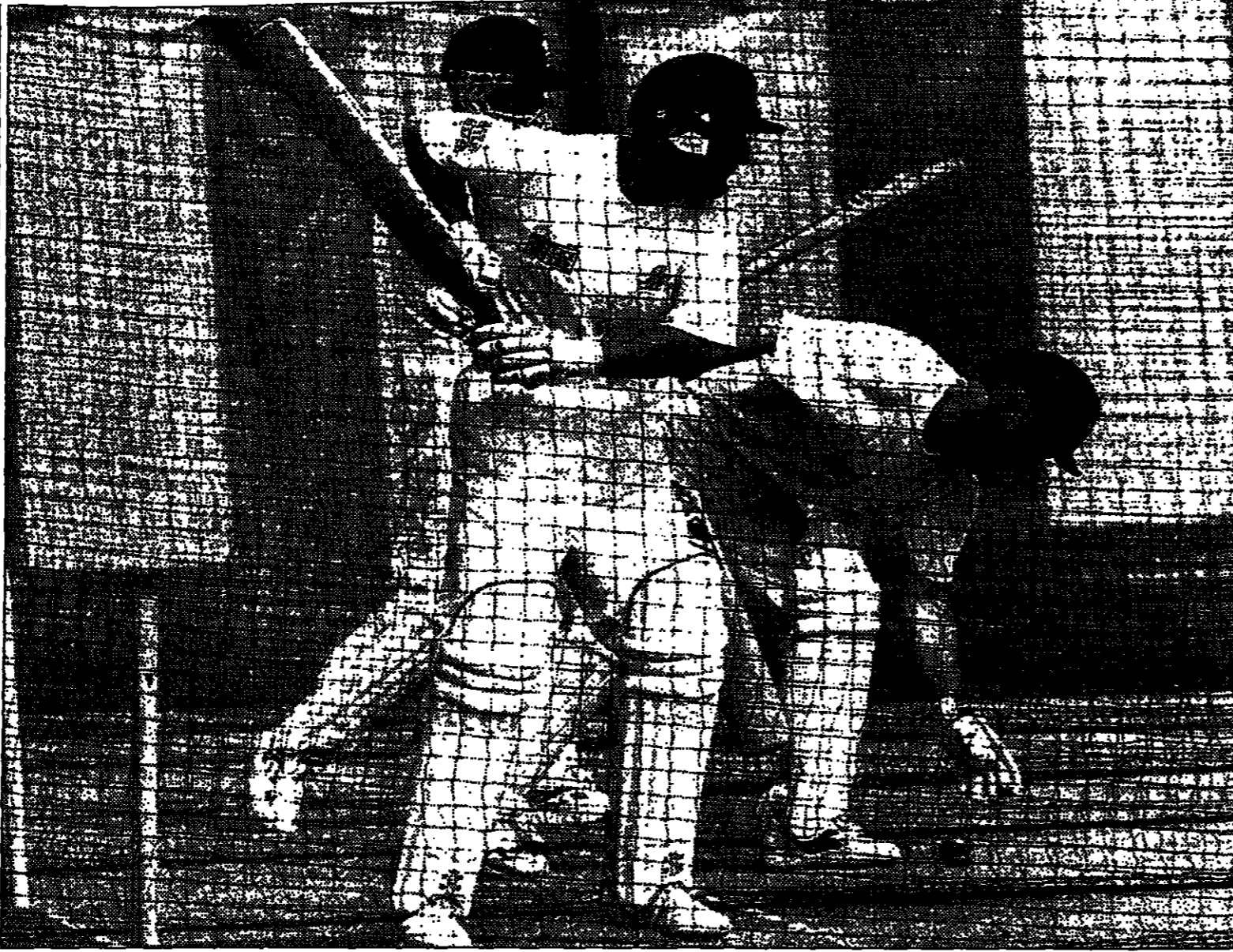
Golf Langer dreads nought

Michael Britton in Munich

BERNHARD LANGER yesterday dismissed stories that he is on the verge of retirement because of poor form and the putting yips.

The German was in bullish mood on the eve of the BMW Open at the St Eucharist club here in his native Bavaria despite having been disqualified for the first time in his career at last week's US Open.

Langer stressed that his weekend disgust was directed at the US Golf Association presentation of Oakland Hills.



Net profits... England's Nasser Hussain (nearest camera) and Graham Thorpe (stooping) limber up at Lord's

PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK BARON

England aim to tap rich seam

Mike Selvey expects Atherton's men to inflict a second defeat on demoralised India in Dickie Bird's swansong Test at Lord's today

THE chairman of selectors was not in evidence at Lord's yesterday, presumably spending the time in a darkened room with a cold compress on his head in an attempt to stop his blood boiling.

Indies and got him off the hook. Been there, done that, got the T-shirt, Tel.

Today, in the season's showpiece Test, England have the chance to win here again and take the first two Tests of a summer for the first time since 1978.

However, India are now in turmoil. Weakened before they arrived in England by the disciplinary action against Vinod Kambli, they were further undermined when Navot Sidhu, the only experienced opener in the party, packed his bat and went home after the one-day series.

The captain will probably struggle through; less certain is Manjrekar, and Rahul Dravid will open the batting and a decision will be taken this morning on whether to rely on three seamers and the spin of Kumble (a disappointment so far) or include Raju's left-arm spin as well.

Tennis

Seles finds little relief in victory

Stephen Bierley at Eastbourne on the American's constant pain

SUPERFICIALLY Monica Seles's first match on British grass for almost four years yesterday was a sea breeze.

There was a gentle wind off the Channel but no sea fret. There are, however, swirling mists of doubt in the mind of Seles for the pain in her injured left shoulder is obviously nagging at her each and every day.

ments of drift and carelessness. "I won't be able to let this happen at Wimbledon," she said afterwards.

The last time Seles played at Wimbledon was in 1992 when she lost to Steffi Graf in the final. "I don't like to be reminded of matches I lose, but I never felt I was in it."

Chanda Rubin, seeded seventh at Wimbledon and a finalist here last year, withdrew yesterday after losing the first set 6-3 against her fellow American Liss Raymond.

Petchey is now the third force

David Irvine at Nottingham

FOR far too long it was Jeremy Bates alone who carried the men's game in Britain. More recently the baton has been taken up by Greg Rusedski and Tim Henman.

Petchey, who failed so disappointingly when deputising for Henman in the Davis Cup recently, played with almost total authority. His serve, his return and his volleying were near-flawless.

Petchey, who is due to marry soon, said he had developed a new attitude to his game. "I just want to play well and not worry too much about results. Winning at Beckenham [his first British men's championship for over 50 years] was a great confidence-booster."

Chess

Karpov three points ahead

ANATOLY KARPOV took a 3-2 lead in the Fide world championship at Elista, Kalmykia, when his American challenger Gata Kamsky belatedly resigned a hopeless endgame two pawns down.

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Wood on fire at Roehampton

JANE WOOD, trying the pro circuit after a 10-year break, was Britain's only winner yesterday at Roehampton as all her compatriots lost their chance of qualifying for Wimbledon.

Wood, a 28-year-old Londoner, plays Romania's Catalina Cristea today for a place in the first round after beating Virginie Buisson of France 6-3, 6-2.

County Championship: Somerset v Worcestershire

Another Illingworth profits as perseverance is rewarded and logic defied

David Foot at Bath

Logic demanded that Somerset launch the Bath Festival with an orgy of runs that promised a remorseless and no mercy to the bottom county.

square but the pace barely changed and the tumble of wickets from 170 for one only emphasised that a golden opportunity as well as logic had been snatched.

over the top for four, against his nature, and was soon out. Maybe Somerset were mesmerised by the proximity of the croquet club.

toss against the struggling Northamptonshire. Smith's five-hour 179, his 50th first-class century, and a championship-best 81 by the rapidly improving Jason Langer took the home side to 329 for six.

Scoreboard

Table with 2 columns: Team, Score. Includes Somerset v Worcestershire, Hampshire v Northamptonshire, and other matches.

Second XI Championship

Table with 2 columns: Team, Score. Includes Atherstone v Durham, Souths v Middlesex, and other matches.

Rugby League

Australians call off NZ game snubbed by Super Leaguers

THE prospects of any international being played in Australia this season receded yesterday when a proposed "Test" between the Kangaroos and the Kiwis tomorrow was cancelled.

Officials of the Australian Rugby League remained hopeful that a second game scheduled for Auckland in July would still take place, or falling that a match between Australia and the Rest of the World.

Chess

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Advertisement for a football tournament. Includes text: 'Q16: Pat Holland, Alan Brazil and Mike England are three of the four top footballers of the past 35 years whose surnames are also countries. Name the fourth. A16: Joe Jordan ticket Q17: Which player scored nine goals in five games to lift the Henri Delaunay trophy for his country? A17: Michel Platini'.

Advertisement for 'Unfair advantage' tickets. Text: 'No, it's not fair - but somebody has to win two tickets to the Wimbledon Men's Final in this Sunday's Observer. Why shouldn't it be you?'.

Large advertisement for 'Stratford (M.H.)' featuring a picture of a man and text: 'Stratford (M.H.) to...'. Includes a 'ticket' logo.

ROYAL ASCOT

Trigger ready to fire a double gold

Ron Cox expects champion stayer to show the way home in today's marathon

DOUBLE TRIGGER, five lengths winner of last year's Gold Cup, can become the sixth dual winner of the top prize for stayers since 1980...

the Oaks, despite connections having stumped up the \$15,000 supplementary fee.

She stayed on strongly to beat Sil Sila, subsequent winner of the French Oaks...

Even though the starting stalls are in the centre of the track for the Cork And Orrey Stakes...

Michael Blanshard's progressive sprinter had a length to spare in the 4lb...

Firm going caused Magnificent Style (2.30) to miss

Kinane leads jockeys' parade

MICK KINANE'S double on Dance Parade and Gordi at Royal Ascot yesterday gave him three winners at the meeting and put him in a commanding position...

other Vintage Crop. "He has wonderful shoulders and is very powerful - just like Vintage Crop," said Weld...

The stewards considered the poor performance of the favourite Sherpas who finished tenth in the Queen's Vase...

The success of Gordi in the Queen's Vase prompted Dermot Weld, his trainer, to talk in terms of the colt being an



Stepping out... Dance Parade answers the calls of a determined Mick Kinane to win the Queen Mary Stakes

PHOTOGRAPH TOM JENKINS

Peslier has second sight on Shake The Yoke

Chris Hawkins

THE difference between super-confidence and over-confidence at Royal Ascot yesterday was a neck, the distance by which Olivier Peslier won the Coronation Stakes on Shake The Yoke last Sunday.

From two furlongs out Peslier rode the French even-money favourite to beat Dance Design on the rails and it was clear that he always thought his filly

would get there. He was right, but did he take account of George Duffield finishing like a train on Last Second on his outside?

"The plan was to hold her back and it worked," said Peslier. "That is the way she is used to racing. I wasn't worried. I saw the second coming."

Yeast was a popular winner of the Hunt Cup for William Haggas who, after his Derby triumph, is having a sensational season.

He was the 8-1 favourite, followed home by Tertium and Crumpton Hill.

Haggas revealed that Epsom hero Shaaelit is not guaranteed to go for the Irish Derby on Sunday week, mindful no doubt of the big supplementary entry fee.

Punters took an early ponding as 50-1 shot Lucayan Prince, ridden by Richard Kingsmill, won the opening Jersey Stakes.

Prince a beautiful ride," said David Loder, the colt's trainer. "You have to wait and wait with this horse."

We know this was good but he hasn't produced it on the racecourse until now.

Anyone who watched the market before the Queen Mary Stakes knew More Silver, who went from 5-1 to 5-2, would not win. Predictably, she never threatened to take a hand leaving her stable companions at Dance Parade and Dame Laura, trained by Paul Cole, to fight out the finish

with victory going to the horse.

Cole commented: "I've always wanted to win the Queen Mary though it's slightly tempered by the run of More Silver. I've been getting bad vibes about her in the past week. I would hate to be thought unprofessional in running a horse that wasn't right."

Unfortunately, Cole did not choose to make public his reservations about More Silver and his apparent disregard for punters does him no favours.

Royal Ascot card with form for televised races

Table listing race times and names: 2.30 Magnificent Style, 4.30 Dancing Bear, 4.45 Dance Parade, 5.30 GET AWAY WITH IT (w/rep)

BBC-1

2.30 Magnificent Style, 4.30 Dancing Bear, 4.45 Dance Parade, 5.30 GET AWAY WITH IT (w/rep)

BBC-1

Table of race results for BBC-1, including race numbers, names, and jockeys.

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Stratford (N.H.) tonight

Table listing race times and names for Stratford (N.H.) tonight.

Results

Table listing race results for various events.

Southwell (A.W.)

Table listing race times and names for Southwell (A.W.).

Ripon tonight

Table listing race times and names for Ripon tonight.

ROYAL ASCOT

Table listing race results for Royal Ascot.

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Advertisement for RACELINE with phone number 0930 1681.

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EURO 96

Writing is on the wall for prosaic Sacchi

Richard Williams on the night a draw was a heart-breaking result for Italy

THEY came to Old Trafford from Rovigo, Paolo Maldini, from Sorrento and from Rome, bearing their banners and their enthusiasm. But now the anger of the Italian fans will be turned against Arrigo Sacchi, the coach whose team drew a match last night but in the process suffered their bitterest defeat of recent years.

More bitter, by far, than their defeat in the World Cup final two years ago. To go out of Euro 96 to goals scored in a match 40 miles away will probably cost Sacchi his job, despite a lucrative new contract which was supposed to see him through to 1998.

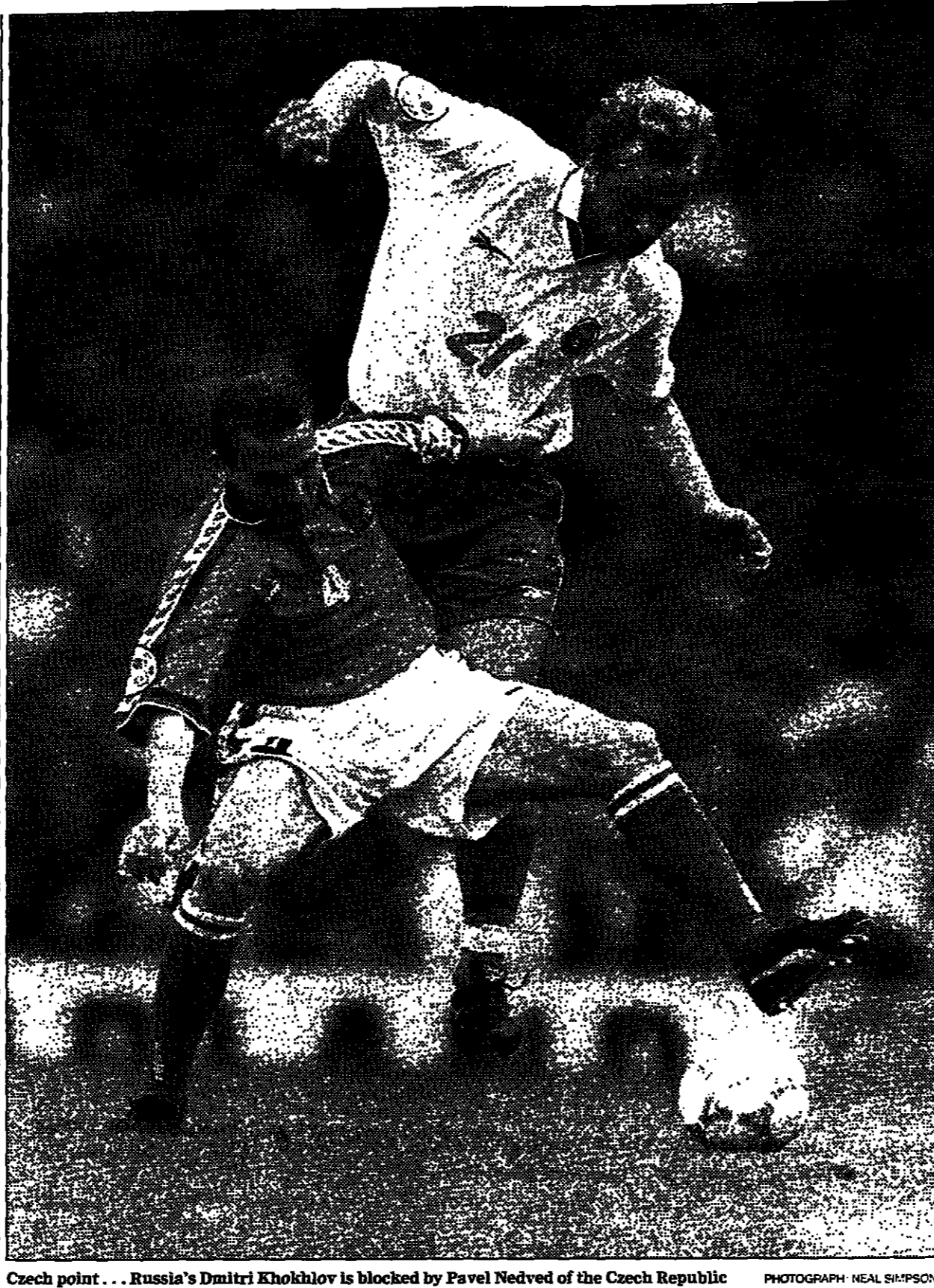
Like the present-day Dutch national side, Sacchi's Italy suffer from the lack of strong personality in midfield. In Holland's case the need is for a Rijkaard, to drive them on. Italy's requirement is for an Antognoni or a Rivera, to give them the fantasy they so grievously lack. Domenico Albertini, who at 24 already has three Italian league championships and one European Cup to his name, and the 26-year-old Roberto Di Matteo, who made his debut for Lazio three years ago as a substitute for Paul Gascoigne, are solid young players but their imaginations are prosaic. Neither of them has the creative instinct to invent the game, as we saw last night when Germany gave them acres of space in midfield.

Sacchi's fondness for Roberto Donadoni, who has already started collecting his pension in the form of a large salary from the New York-New Jersey MetroStars, is really an admission that he cannot find a creative force from the current generation. Donadoni's last great occasion was in Athens two years ago on the night Milan thrashed Barcelona. Last night he repaid the coach's faith with total commitment, but it was not enough.

There is nothing wrong with this team that the presence of Roberto Baggio would not put right, whatever his form with Milan last season. Baggio, not Sacchi, was the reason Italy reached the World Cup final in Pasadena. Past his best even then, he was not too proud to hustle until the job was done.

Alessandro Del Piero was supposed to be the answer to the effective retirement of Roberto Baggio from the national side. The 20-year-old's remarkable consistency in scoring goals with his right foot from the left-hand edge of the penalty area, slotting one after another unerringly into the top right-hand corner of the net, was a feature of his early weeks of last season, although it was not enough to give Juventus the impetus to defend their title.

Soon after he had been called into Sacchi's squad, another form of national service seemed to do for Del Piero. The army cut his hair and made him play in a demanding services tournament, while giving him Sundays off to perform in Serie A. The zest went out of his play, even as Juventus were mounting their successful European Cup campaign.



Czech point... Russia's Dmitri Khokhlov is blocked by Pavel Nedved of the Czech Republic

Group C: Russia 3, Czech Republic 3

Czechs enjoy the late show

Ian Ross at Anfield

THE Czech Republic's reward for their unexpected victory over Italy arrived last night when, in extraordinary circumstances, they went through to the quarter-finals where they face Portugal at Villa Park on Sunday.

Their draw against Russia proved sufficient given the Azarov's failure to defeat Germany at Old Trafford. The Czechs finished level on points with Italy but advanced on the strength of their victory against Arrigo Sacchi's team on an evening of fluctuating fortunes the Czechs carelessly surrendered a two-goal lead and were then facing elimination after the Russian substitute Vladimir Beschastnykh had put his side ahead with six minutes left.

But with two minutes left on the clock the substitute Vladimir Smicer drove in splendidly from 20 yards to drag the Czechs level and break hearts the length and breadth of Italy. If it was difficult to imagine that the Czechs could play better than they had in defeating Italy, it was almost impossible to believe Russia could perform any worse than they had against Germany.

After two undistinguished displays Russia dropped Andrei Kanchelskis, much to the disappointment of those followers of Everton who had crossed Stanley Park to lend support to an adopted son.

Not that there were many neutrals present or indeed anyone else. It was a shame because in between the robust tackling there was some eminently watchable football.

shape with extraordinary ease. But the Czechs have learned how to ride the luck and at the crucial moment they drove a dagger through the heart of their opponents' ambition. Cherchesov, Russia's goalkeeper, was still being congratulated on acrobatically turning behind Kuka's powerful drive across the resulting corner. Nineteen minutes in the game and they were level with the Czechs. Nemeec's hopeful punt forward had covered almost 50 yards when Pavel Kuka rose to meet it just inside the penalty area. Head Chachessov not galloped away from his line the danger would have been minimal, but predictably he had, and Kuka's header drifted up and over him.

And then, as quickly as they had stumbled, the Russians regained their balance and they were level by the 33rd minute. After the substitute Alex Khokhlov had headed in a Khokhlov cross three minutes into a second half of heavy legs and many errors, the defender Omar Tetradze scrambled home from close range amid much confusion to make absolute nonsense of what had gone before.

Russia's nearest interplay promised much, particularly in the opening few minutes when the Czech back line was pulled out of

Euro 96 results

Table showing Euro 96 results for Groups A, B, C, D, and E. Includes match details like England vs Scotland, Czech Republic vs Russia, etc.

Scotland's Brown thinking young

SCOTLAND'S coach Craig Brown swallowed his disappointment yesterday and began to plan for the qualifying series for the 1998 World Cup finals, a campaign that begins against Austria in Vienna in August. Still depressed by the fate his team suffered on Tuesday, when they failed by a single goal to reach the last eight of the European Championship, Brown confirmed that his main concerns about his squad were their average age and their failure to score goals - their single most damning weakness.

Rugby Union

SCOTT HASTINGS will win a record 62nd cap for Scotland when he returns from injury for the second Test against New Zealand at Eden Park on Saturday. The Watsonians centre will move ahead of his brother Gavin, with whom he shared the record. The inclusion of Hastings, who has recovered from the knee injury that kept him out of the first Test, is one of two changes to the team that lost to the All Blacks in Dunedin. Tony Stanger, who has been playing at outside centre, is picked on the right wing instead of Craig Joiner. Jonah Lomu has a knee injury which may be spread the thankless task of facing him, but the All Blacks' coach John Hart said: "We will give Jonah right up to the day of the Test to prove his fitness."

Results

Table of sports results including Rugby Union, Golf, Tennis, Baseball, Cycling, and Evening Racing. Lists various events and winners.

Fixtures

Table of sports fixtures for various leagues including Rugby League, Soccer, Hockey, and Tennis. Lists upcoming matches and dates.

Sport in brief

Sailing: Light winds put paid to the majority of the racing in the Brit Cup at Cowes, but Russell Coutts of New Zealand advanced his chances of winning the bonus prize of \$250,000 (£166,000) should he win this Grand Prix by beating France's Thierry Pignatieri in their round-robin match, writes Ian Ross. On the opening day of the Hackett Etchells World Championship at Cowes, British skipper Iain Murray won the Royal Yacht Squadron Invitational Race. Golf: Britain's Lisa Hackney stepped up her challenge for a Solheim Cup place with eight birdies in a six-under-par 66 in the opening round of the Evian Masters in France. Hackney, the Welsh Open champion from Stoke, leads the field, one stroke ahead of Sweden's Maria Hjorth, with the defending champion Laura Davies on 72.

Advertisement for Euro '96 final tickets. Text: 'Score tickets for the Euro '96 final. Tackle Julia.' Includes image of Julia Roberts and JVC logo.

Advertisement for 'Unfair advantage' by The Observer. Text: 'No, it's not fair - but somebody has to win two tickets to the Wimbledon Men's Final in this Sunday's Observer. Why shouldn't it be you?' Includes image of a tennis ball.

EURO 96

David Lacey says the firepower that overwhelmed Holland for the most famous win at Wembley since '66 could enable Terry Venables to emulate Sir Alf Ramsey

Shearer puts England in shooting range

SUCCESS changes perspectives. After what happened at Wembley on Tuesday night the England team could turn up for Saturday's European Championship quarter-final against Spain on the back of a beer lorry and no one would raise an eyebrow.



From beer mugs to big-game hunters... the tabloids go from one extreme to the other as they chart England's ups and downs. PHOTOMONTAGE: ROGER TOOTH

reached the World Cup semi-finals, the best anyone has achieved with an England team abroad. Venables may be about to emulate Ramsey at home, and in a markedly stronger field than the World Cup of 30 years ago.

the Scots when the passing started to gel around Steve McManaman and Jamie Redknapp.

Not since Robson's side scored four times against Yugoslavia in the opening 24 minutes of a European Championship qualifier in Belgrade in 1987 has an England team demolished the opposition of any standing so completely as did Venables' attack at the start of Tuesday's second half.

serve Dutch interest in Euro 96 a while longer. One of the most surprising aspects of England's progress to the quarter-finals is the fact that in all three matches Venables has used the same 11 players plus substitutes.

ence in the squad Venables has spent 24 years striving to achieve. All the players appear comfortable in whatever task is allotted to them. It is clear now that much work has been done in evolving situations which bring Paul Ince late into an attacking movement.

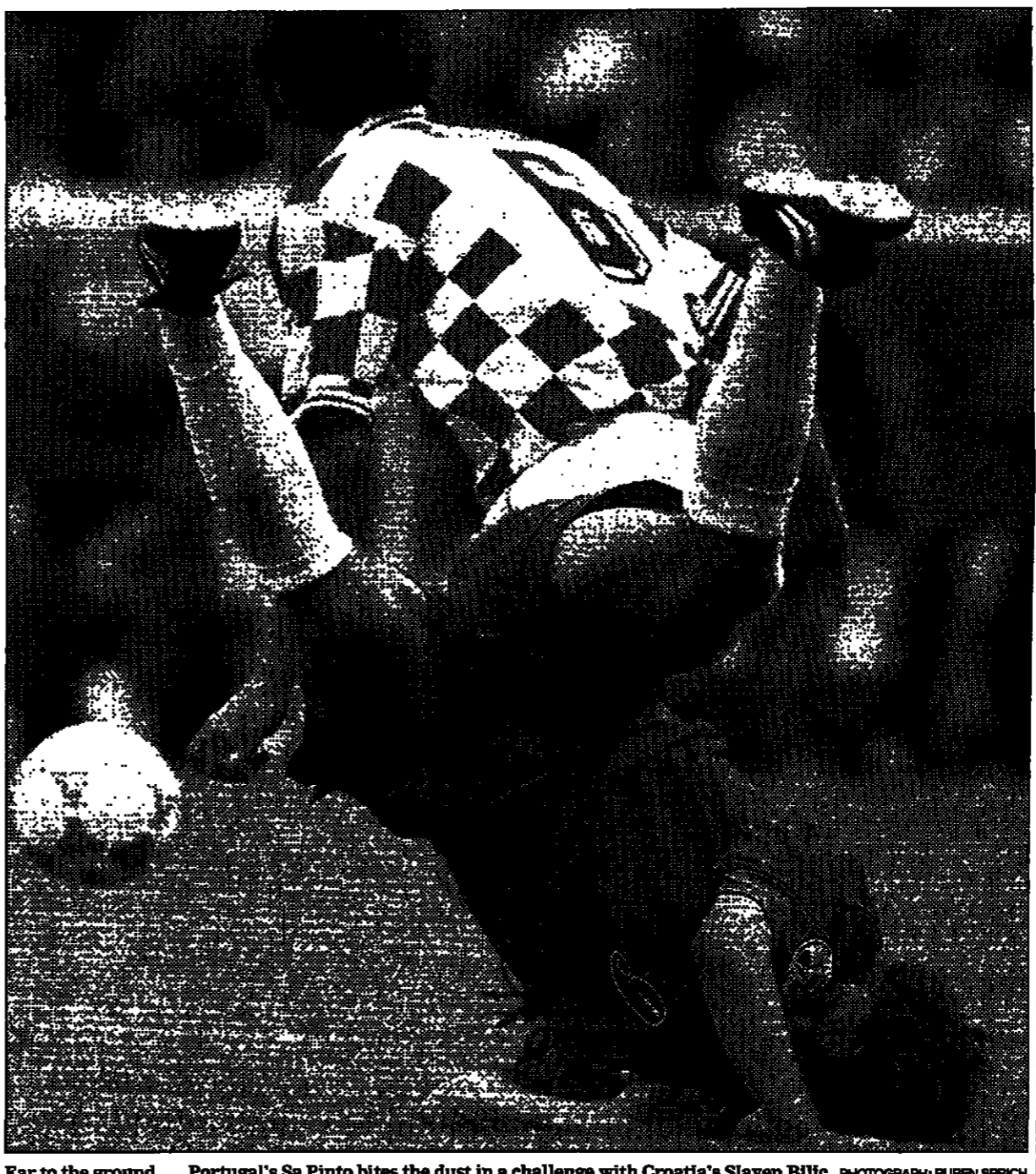
Terry and the boys give the press some stick

(continued from Page 26) but the second Test against India begins today and, if England win, the parallel-universe theory will look even more plausible.

Group D: Croatia 0, Portugal 3 Croatia keep powder dry

THAT THEY say that football is a funny old game. But it is really strange in Croatia. They came into this game as group leaders, were already guaranteed qualification, but their coach Miroslav Blazevic dropped seven players from the team who beat Denmark at the weekend.

compels coaches to play their strongest side, even if the result of the game affects the chances of another team. So without the stars of Sunday, Boban, Asanovic and Suker, along with Stimac and Ladec, Croatia played as if they were involved in nothing more serious than a training ground run-out.



Ear to the ground... Portugal's Sa Pinto bites the dust in a challenge with Croatia's Slaven Bilic. PHOTOGRAPH: RUBEN SPRIK

Group D: Turkey 0, Denmark 3

Holders go out with pride intact and a three-goal salvo

THE Roligans of Denmark, perhaps sensing the inevitable, sang one long, lusty chorus of We Are The Champions shortly before kick-off and they were right to do so.

their own hands but down in Nottingham, where it was sealed by Portugal's 3-0 victory over Croatia which made the Danes' goal-count immortal. Had Croatia won, even by a single goal, Denmark would now be in the quarter-finals instead of the Portuguese, but it was not to be.

on target, the Danes half an hour, from the leggy Schonberg. Schmeichel acrobatically tipped over the former effort and Rustru bravely blocked the latter.

mark's second goal from a Michael Laudrup pass. The Turkey keeper was similarly blameless when Brian Laudrup got his second and Denmark's third six minutes from time from the same angle. Again Bo Andersen was the supplier.

Sofia, so bad



SO FAREWELL then, Bulgaria. This column's favourite team went out of the competition the way they came in, in a ferment of mutual contumely. Come back soon, you hear.

WHEN the Bulgarians were trekking around northern England last week seeking the perfect training facilities, Borislav Mikhalov and Bocho Genchev must have proved especially helpful for their experience of English conditions.

IAN ST JOHN got a little peeved when Spain started belting balls up to two big men in the French game. How dare a Latin side play like that, he seemed to be saying, just as though he held intellectual property rights on Route One.

It should no longer be a surprise to see Spain playing like a relegation-threatened English team. Their coach, Javier Clemente, is a big fan of the English game, but it's a big fan, in fact, that he once turned Espanol into the ugliest up-and-under team in Europe, uglier even than Lincoln City.

Advertisement for 'FIND OUT ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT'S OPEN DOOR POLICY ON INFORMATION'. The text encourages readers to visit the nearest Main Post Office or access the internet at www.open.gov.uk/m-of-gcodepract.htm. It includes fields for Name, Address, and Postcode.

ITV puts opposition in shade with armchair audience of 16 million

ENGLAND's victory against Holland attracted the largest television audience for Euro 96 so far. ITV's coverage of the 4-1 Wembley triumph had a peak audience of 16 million viewers, according to unofficial industry figures.

gained a peak 71 per cent share of the available Tuesday-night television audience. It wiped out half of Eastenders' normal audience, knocking the BBC's soap down to 7.6 million. The Nine O'Clock News slumped to 3.8 million.

The BBC expects to strike back on Saturday with Grandstand's exclusive live coverage of England v Spain at Wembley. ITV will cover the evening game between France and Holland.

If England beat Spain both BBC1 and ITV will show the semi-final.

Advertisement for 'EURO 96 HOTLINE' with phone number 099 099 1996 and 'FOOTBALL COMES HOME' logo.

